

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:53 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Bill and Michelle O'Reilly; State Attorney General Jennifer M. Granholm and her husband, Dan Mulhern; Senator Carl Levin and his wife, Barbara; philanthropist Peter L. Buettenweiser; and Jane Hart, widow of former Senator Philip A. Hart. Representative Stabenow is a candidate for U.S. Senate from Michigan.

**Memorandum on Waiver of Certification for Conditions on Assistance for Colombia**

*August 22, 2000*

Presidential Determination No. 2000-28

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Presidential Determination on Waiver of Certification Under Section 3201 "Conditions on Assistance for Colombia," in Title III, Chapter 2 of the Emergency Supplemental Act, FY 2000, as Enacted in Public Law 106-246

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 3201(a)(4) of the FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental Act (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is in the national security interest of the United States to furnish assistance made available under the Act to the Government of Colombia without regard to the following provisions of section 3201 of that Act:

(a)(1)(A)(ii) the Commander General of the Colombian Armed Forces is promptly suspending from duty any Colombian Armed Forces personnel who are credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights or to have aided or abetted paramilitary groups;

(a)(1)(A)(iii) the Colombian Armed Forces and its Commander General are fully complying with section 3201 (a)(1)(A)(i) and (ii) of the Act;

(a)(1)(B) the Colombian Armed Forces are cooperating fully with civilian authorities in investigating, prosecuting,

and punishing in the civilian courts Colombian Armed Forces personnel who are credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights;

(a)(1)(C) the Government of Colombia is vigorously prosecuting in the civilian courts the leaders and members of paramilitary groups and Colombian Armed Forces personnel who are aiding or abetting these groups;

(a)(1)(D) the Government of Colombia has agreed to and is implementing a strategy to eliminate Colombia's total coca and opium poppy production by 2005 through a mix of alter-native development programs; manual eradication; aerial spraying of chemical herbicides; tested, environmentally safe mycoherbicides; and the destruction of illicit narcotics laboratories on Colombian territory; and

(a)(1)(E) the Colombian Armed Forces are developing and deploying in their field units a Judge Advocate General Corps to investigate Colombian Armed Forces personnel for misconduct.

I have attached a Memorandum of Justification for the decision to waive the foregoing certifications.

You are hereby authorized and directed to report this waiver to the appropriate Committees of the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 28, 2000]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 23, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 29. The Office of the Press Secretary also made available the Memorandum of Justification in Connection With the Waivers Under Section 3201(a)(4) of the Emergency Supplemental Act, as Enacted in the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001.

**Remarks on Departure for  
Monmouth Junction, New Jersey,  
and an Exchange With Reporters**

August 23, 2000

**California Electricity Shortage**

**The President.** Before I leave for New Jersey today, I want to make a brief announcement about some action we're taking to help consumers in southern California who have been hit very hard by skyrocketing electric bills. I want to thank Governor Davis, Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer, and Congressman Filner for their leadership on this issue and their work with me.

The wholesale price of electricity has risen sharply in California this summer as a result of tight supplies and growing demand. This is having a particularly heavy impact where the price hikes are being passed on to consumers, as they are in the San Diego region. Many families and small businesses in San Diego have seen their electric bills more than double. I've heard reports of senior citizens on fixed incomes being forced to choose between medicine and air-conditioning.

Today we're taking three new steps to help ease the burden. First, Secretary Richardson has asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to expedite its investigation of the wholesale power markets, so we can better understand what is happening in California and provide policymakers with the information they need to protect consumers in a timely fashion.

Second, I'm directing the Department of Health and Human Services and Secretary Shalala to release \$2.6 million in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds for the families of southern California. This doubles the amount of LIHEAP assistance in the San Diego region and will help to ensure that low income families and senior citizens have the emergency help they need to pay their bills and stay cool.

Third, I'm directing the Small Business Administration to step up their efforts to inform small businesses about SBA loans to help cope with unusually high electric bills.

All of these are short-term steps to help families in southern California during the current power crunch. I also renew my call to Congress to work with us to build a better

energy future over the long run, to take up my energy budget initiatives and the tax incentives to promote energy efficiency and conservation. I hope they will also pass a national comprehensive bill to foster a new era of the right kind of competition in the electric industry to establish a more competitive, efficient, and reliable electric power system for our Nation and to beef up efforts to prevent utilities from abusing their market power to raise rates above competitive levels. This legislation would save our consumers about \$20 billion a year in power costs. We ought to do it, and we ought to do it this year.

Let me say once again to the people of southern California, we'll continue to keep a close eye on the situation. We'll do what we can to help you get through this summer.

Thank you very much.

**Q.** Mr. President, do you think—[*inaudible*].

**The President.** Excuse me, sir?

**Q.** Mr. President, do you think the power companies are profiteering in California?

**The President.** Well, that's what FERC's going to investigate. Secretary Richardson and I talked about it. We want the FERC to look into it and see what the facts are. There is an unusual impact there, different from virtually any other place in America, and it needs to be examined, and I hope it will be. I hope the assistance we're giving in the meanwhile will help.

And again I will say, I believe that we could do an enormous amount if the Congress would pass the energy budget initiatives, the tax incentives to buy energy-efficient homes, vehicles, to retrofit businesses, and would pass the electric utility deregulation.

Let me remind you—some of you may remember this—I went out to the Inland Empire, east of L.A., I believe it was in San Bernardino, to dedicate a housing project that was part of an effort with the National Home Builders and the Energy Department, for working people on modest incomes. And the homes that they built there lowered average electric rates by over 40 percent.

So we need to take some structural action here to empower the American people to solve this problem themselves, too. If we